

February, 2009

TO: ALL AFFILIATES

CONFERENCE CALL

OFL SOLIDARITY & PRIDE CONFERENCE

“BUILDING UNION PRIDE”

GRAND HOTEL, TORONTO, ONTARIO

MAY 22-24, 2009

Greetings:

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada. The labour movement can be proud of our work to ensure full legal rights for the LGBT workers and their families. We fought for collective bargaining rights and stood with our members through legal battles in achieving legislative equality. We have made significant gains. However the reality is for many LGBT workers, there remains the threat of discrimination both in the workplace and in society.

The Federation’s Solidarity and Pride Conference will mark the historical significance of our 40-year battle of equality rights and we will also develop strategies to ensure that legislative rights are also societal rights. Conference registration is open to LGBT members, our allies, human rights activists, local union leadership and bargaining committee members.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

- **TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES ON ISSUES RELATING TO LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANS-IDENTIFIED WORKERS.**
- **TO PROVIDE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANS-IDENTIFIED WORKERS WITH A FORUM FROM WHICH TO ORGANIZE AND MOBILIZE.**
- **TO STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN UNION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS.**
- **TO BUILD STRONGER LINKS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION.**
- **TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF CREATING SAFE SPACE AND INCLUSIVE UNIONS, WORKPLACES AND COMMUNITIES.**

... OVER, PLEASE

The Solidarity & Pride Conference takes place in Toronto on May 22-24, 2009 at the Grand Hotel, 225 Jarvis Street. The fee for registration is \$150 per delegate and cheques are payable to "**OFL 2009 Solidarity & Pride Conference**". Attached is a registration form. As well, delegates can register on-line at www.ofl.ca – registration and payment must be **received by May 15, 2009**.

We expect space will be limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-registered basis. To ensure seating of your delegate(s), please mail registration form(s) and accompanying cheque as soon as possible.

The Federation has a block of rooms reserved at a cost of \$169 plus tax per night. To receive this rate delegates must book accommodation(s) by May 1, 2009. Reservations can be made directly with WE Travel at 1-(888)-676-7747 or (613) 232-9908 or via e-mail at: christina@wetravel.net or diane@wetravel.net.

Additional information and conference forms can be found on the OFL website: www.ofl.ca or contact us directly by calling Kathy Neumann at 416-443-7674 -- toll free 1-(800)-668-9138 or e-mail: kneumann@ofl.ca.

Accommodations for delegates with disabilities are available. Please complete the attached **Personal Assistance Request Form and return by May 1, 2009**.

The OFL provides child care to conference delegates. To confirm arrangements please complete the attached **Child Care Registration Form and return by May 7, 2009**.

ALL OFL events are smoke free.

Allergy Alert: Increasingly, workers are becoming sensitized to chemicals in the environment. For many workers, attending conferences and being exposed to perfumes and other strong scents can pose a serious health risk. Therefore, we ask that conference participants refrain from use of scented products.

In solidarity,

Wayne Samuelson
President

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Attachments